

McCone FSA County Office
104 10th St./PO Box 187
Circle, MT 59215-0187

County Committee Members

Elliot Haynie, Chairperson
Duane White, Vice-Chairperson
David Schumacher, Member
Irene Rathert, Minority

FSA Office Personnel

Valerie Dekker, PT
Jeanne Meissner, PT
Avis Miles, PT
Sue Wittkopp, PT
Stacey Buckley, Farm Loan Mgr
Patrick Turner, Farm Loan Mgr
Julie Trower, CED

Dates to Remember:

May 28 – Memorial Day – Office Closed

May 31 – Final loan/LDP availability date for Corn, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Small chickpeas, Soybeans, and Sunflower seed harvested in 2006

June 15 – Nominations Open for COC election

Notice of Loss – 15 calendar days following disaster

July 4 – Independence Day - Office Closed

July 16 – Acreage report deadline

August 1 – Deadline for reconstitutions

August 3 – Extended Signature deadline on 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP)

September 3 – Labor Day – Office Closed

September 24-27 – Tribal Outreach Forum, at the Gran Tree, Bozeman

September 28 – Final date for late filed 2007 DCP contracts

October 2 & 3 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium, Dillon



McCone County FSA

April/May 2007

Responsibilities for CRP Contract Holders

CRP contract holders have certain responsibilities for carrying out the terms and conditions of the CRP contract. Those include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Control all weeds, insects, pests and other undesirable species to the extent necessary to ensure that the establishment and maintenance of the approved cover is adequately protected and there is no adverse impact on surrounding land.
- ✓ Establish and maintain the required vegetative or water cover and other required practices.
- ✓ No activity may be conducted on CRP acres without authorization.
- ✓ Prior approval must be received from FSA before any harvesting, grazing or other commercial use of the forage may begin.
- ✓ If land with a CRP contract is sold, the new owners must notify the local county FSA office if they want to continue the contract.

If the land is sold and the new owner does not wish to continue the CRP contract, the seller will be required to repay all payments received on the contract plus interest and liquidated damages. Liquidated damages are equal to 25 percent of the annual rental payment on those acres not continued by the new owner.

NOTE: There are two primary nesting Dates

May 15 – July 15 *FSA State Committee established Primary Nesting Season for CRP (Old rules)*

May 15 – August 1 *Primary Nesting Season for CRP contracts affected by the National Wildlife Federations settlement agreement with FSA (New rules)*

Check the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO) for the primary nesting dates that apply to your CRP contract

LOAN and LDP Violations

Incorrect Certification is either of the following:

- ❖ Certifying a quantity in excess of the quantity eligible for loan or LDP
- ❖ Making any fraudulent representation with respect to obtaining loans or LDPs.

Unauthorized Removal is the movement of any farm-stored loan quantity from the storage structure where the commodity was stored, or structures that were designated when the loan was approved, to any other storage structure whether or not the structure is located on the producer's farm without prior written authorization from the COC. Unauthorized removal is considered a violation if the producer does not maintain control of the commodity or CCC loses first lien on the collateral.

Unauthorized Disposition is the conversion of any loan quantity pledged as collateral for a farm-stored loan without prior written authorization from the COC.

Consequences of Loan and LDP Violations may be:

- ❖ Assessment of liquidated damages and other administrative actions, and shall be liable for monetary amounts as specified in the applicable regulations and terms and conditions of the applicable forms.
- ❖ Criminal prosecution under Federal Law.

Farm Reconstitution Deadline: Aug. 1st

A completed farm reconstitution to divide or combine farms will result in the termination of the Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) contract. The farm producers may enroll the base acres for a crop year by signing a new DCP (CCC-509) for the resulting farm(s). This must be done by August 3 or 30 days after written notification that the farm reconstitution has been completed. If a CCC-509 is signed between August 3 and September 28, a \$100 user fee will be assessed. The fee is waived if the reconstitution is requested by August 1 and all signatures are obtained within 30 days following the written notification. The failure to timely enroll the base acres may result in loss of payments.

Loan & LDP Final Availability Dates

Loans and LDP's are available to eligible producers who have:

- ❖ Reported acreage of the crop for which a loan or LDP is requested.
- ❖ Complied with all other program provisions

Request for loans and LDP's shall be made on or before the final availability date for that crop. Following are the final availability dates for crops harvested in 2006 for eligible grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, wool & mohair and honey:

Commodity	Availability Date
Small Grains, Canola, Crambe, Flax, Honey, Sesame Seed, Rapeseed	March 31, 2007
Corn, Grain sorghum, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Soybeans, Sunflower seed, Dry peas, Lentils and Small chickpeas	May 31, 2007
Wool/mohair for wool/mohair clipped in calendar year 2007	January 31, 2008

2007 Final Year of DCP Program Under 2002 Farm Bill

The sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program has been extended until August 3, 2007. The extension applies only to the enrollment time frame and does not extend the annual DCP contract period beyond September 28, 2007. A late-file fee of \$100 will be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 but no later than September 28, 2007. Applications filed after September 28, 2007 cannot be approved.

We encourage you to sign up early to avoid the \$100 late file fee. Contact the county office to set up an appointment.

COC Election Approaching

Beginning **June 15, 2007**, nominations will be accepted for candidates for County Committee (COC) positions.

A county or area served by the COC is divided into local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. Only one LAA holds an election each year. This year LAA#1 is open in McCone County which is the north and northwest area of the county. David Schumacher is currently serving for LAA#1. The nominee must sign the nomination form in order to be nominated as a COC member.

Nomination forms are available at the county office or by logging on to the Montana FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Please remember that as a county committee member you are the local voice of how FSA programs are administered to meet your local community and resource needs.

Nomination forms must be submitted to the FSA county office by **August 1, 2007**. Ballots will be sent to eligible voters beginning November 2, 2007. The final day for voters to submit their voted ballots is December 3, 2007.

Measurement Service Charges Revised

An on farm measurement is charged at:

- Basic farm fee of \$30.00;
- Plus an hourly rate of \$16.00 for the first hour and \$8.00 for each additional one-half hour after the first hour. The minimum charge is 1 hour.

The hourly rate includes the time to travel from the FSA county office to the farm, complete the measurement service and return to the county office.

An "Initial Fee" is required at the time the measurement service is requested and the fee must be collected before the measurement service is performed. The initial fee will be the basic rate plus the hourly minimum. Once the service has been completed the actual fee will be calculated. The initial fee will be subtracted from the calculated fee and a letter will be sent informing you of the additional amount owed. If the amount is \$9.99 or less then an additional fee is not required.
(Continued in Column 2)

Measurement Service Charges (cont.)

In-office measurements are charged at:

- a basic farm rate of \$15.00 plus a half hour minimum rate of \$8.00.

Bin site measurements will be calculated according to the farm number and the physical location of the bins:

- for one farm with multiple bin sites: only one FSA-409 (written request for measurement service) is required;
- for multiple farms with all grain stored in bins at one site: only one FSA-409 is required for the bin site's physical location;
- for multiple farms with a different bin site for each farm: a separate FSA-409 is required for each farm and bin site.

Mixed Grain/Hay Loan LDP Eligibility

USDA does not establish loan rates for mixed commodities. A mixed commodity harvested as grain that does not meet grading standards is not eligible for a loan or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). A mixed commodity that is hayed or harvested as silage is not eligible for an LDP.

Eligibility for Grain/Oilseeds/Pulse Crops Harvested as Grain – If a mixed commodity is harvested as grain and a farm-stored loan or LDP is applied for, a sample of the harvested crop must be taken to a licensed Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) laboratory for grading, at the producer's expense. Loan or LDP eligibility will be determined based on the results of the sample.

Eligibility for Grain/Oilseeds/Pulse Crops Harvested as Other Than Grain – If the mixed commodity is harvested as hay or silage, there is no test to determine the percentage of each commodity in the mixture to establish the grade and class. Therefore, crops planted in a mixture and hayed or harvested for silage are not eligible for an LDP.

A commodity planted as a nurse crop with alfalfa may be eligible for an LDP if a full seeding is planted and the commodity is reported as the intended use for grain or forage. The County Committee may require documentation to support the seeding rate.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

McCone County FSA
P O Box 187/104 10th St.
Circle, MT 59215-0187

PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
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BOZEMAN, MT 59715
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Important Dates to Remember

**May 1 – NAP pull off date for forage crops
May 31 – Final loan availability date for various crops
June 15 – COC nominations open
Notice of Loss – 15 calendar days following disaster
July 16 – Acreage report deadline
August 1 – Reconstitution Request Deadline**

GRAZE-OUT Applications

The 2002 Farm Bill provided GRAZE-OUT payments instead of loan deficiency payments (LDPs) for 2002 through 2007 crop years to eligible producers who:

- Elect to use acreage planted to wheat, barley, oats, or triticale, for the grazing by livestock;
- Certify those acres by July 15th as to be grazed; and
- Agree to forgo any other harvesting of the commodity on this acreage during the applicable crop year.

The application period for GRAZE-OUT begins the first day of mechanical harvest as determined by the local County Committee and ends on March 31 of the calendar year following the year the crop is normally harvested.

Local county committees are responsible for determining the beginning harvest date each year in the county for wheat, barley, oats, and triticale.

2007 Acreage Reports

All acreage reports need to be accurate and filed by the final reporting date of **July 16, 2007**. Certification is mandatory if any of the following apply:

- ♦ You receive DCP payments
- ♦ You have acres enrolled in CRP
- ♦ Loans or LDP's will be requested; including Wool, Mohair and Honey
(*All cropland on the farm must be certified to be eligible for DCP and loan program benefits*).
- ♦ Acreage is covered by NAP

Failure to report accurately may result in loss of program and price support benefits.

NAP Pull Off Date

Each FSA County Committee determines the date when livestock must be removed from NAP forage acres each spring. The date determined in McCone County is May 1, 2007. The pull off date for crops intended for grass seed is April 1 in all counties.